	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	10/579,005	SCHMIDT ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Mark A. Deuble	3651
The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.		
1. This communication is responsive to		
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are <u>1-13</u> .		
 3.		
* Certified copies not received:		
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.		
 A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient. 		
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.		
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached		
1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date		
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date		
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).		
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.		
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Attachment(s)	5. Notice of Informal P	atent Application
 Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) D Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 	6. ☐ Interview Summary	• •
	Paper No./Mail Da	te
 Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date <u>5/11/2006</u> 	7. 🗌 Examiner's Amendr	nenvComment
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material	8. Examiner's Stateme	ent of Reasons for Allowance
	9. 🔲 Other	

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REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

While British document number 549,616 shows a people conveyor with interconnected steps driven by a step chain through turnaround and return portions in which the steps are guided by the interaction between step rollers and inner and outer guide rails, it has a device for restraining the step rollers against the inner surface of the chain that is mounted on the outer guide rail rather than on the step or to the connecting axle of the steps so as to move together with the step as required by the independent claim. Furthermore, while British document number 491,301 shows a people conveyor with interconnected steps driven by a step chain through turnaround and return portions which has a device mounted on the connecting axle of the steps so as to move together with the step that restrains a pair of step rollers against a guide rail, it has inner and outer guide rails that contact different sets of step rollers rather than inner and outer guide rails that support the same step roller that is restrained by the restraining device as required by the independent claim.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark A. Deuble whose telephone number is (571) 272-6912. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene O. Crawford can be reached on (571) 272-6911. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Mark A. Deuble Primary Examiner Art Unit 3651

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MARK A. DEUBLE PRIMARY EXAMINER